

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 188

By Ford

A RESOLUTION to commend Edmund Ford, Jr. for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the Memphis City Council.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edmund Ford, Jr. is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a Councilman, Dr. Ford has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Councilman Ford is the 2013 Memphis City Council Chairman; he was elected to the City Council in 2007, at the age of 28, making him the youngest African-American ever to be elected to the Council and the second youngest overall; and

WHEREAS, he is a mathematics teacher at Central High School and is the oldest child of former Councilman Edmund Ford, Sr. and Myrna Ford; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford's notable accomplishments began early in life; in 1996, he graduated from Central High School at the age of sixteen; he then went on to graduate cum laude from Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Master of Science degree in Mathematical Sciences; at the age of twenty-two he was accepted into Vanderbilt University's doctoral program at the George Peabody College of Education; he received his doctoral degree in May 2012; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Councilman, Dr. Ford has performed public service in both local and state capacities; locally, he has served as legislative liaison to the Memphis Area Transit Authority, the Memphis Housing Authority, and the Cook Convention Center; he has also served on Mayor A.C. Wharton's Transition Team as Chairman of the Government Efficiency Sub-Committee and as a member of the CIP/Engineering Sub-Committee; and

WHEREAS, regionally, he is an advisory board member of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council whose mission is to interconnect renewable energy resources with statewide economic development; he is also Secretary for the Tennessee Municipal League's 8th District; and

WHEREAS, recently, Dr. Ford co-sponsored a unanimously passed resolution to rename a significant portion of downtown Memphis' Linden Avenue to 'Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Avenue'; this avenue represents the last street marched on by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. before his assassination in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Councilman Ford, Jr.'s recent accomplishments also include being named as a member of the 2010 Executive Class of Leadership Memphis, as one of *Memphis Business Journal's* 2011 "Top Forty under 40," and as a 2012 Memphis City School TEM Level 5 educator; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford is the founder the Ford Gateway Tutoring Fund, an organization that fosters the academic success of Algebra students and incentivizes proficient and advanced-level mastery on the state end-of-course examinations; currently, the non-profit organization has assisted over 500 students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ford is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Edmund Ford, Jr. for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Memphis as City Councilman and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.